occurred whenever the Jews lived as equals in the midst of a high civilization based on science and philosophy rather than on religion. Thus in the Hellenistic and Hispano-Arabic periods the Jews turned from theix own to a foreign civilization, as they do at present. The complete disappearance of Jewish culture and religion in such periods of assimilation was prevented by the fact that, in the two thousand years of the Diaspora, they have never lived only in highly civilized countries, but invariably also in countries of a lower culture, where there was no temptation to become assimilated. When the Jews entered Central and Eastern Europe, they were pioneers who introduced the high culture of the Near East into backward countries. As a result of the development of science and art during the Renaissance and Eeformation they were outdistanced by the non-Jews of Southern and Western Europe, but maintained their cultural superiority in Eastern Europe, which had only a minor share in the intellectual development of the West. The wide ramification of the Jews across many countries on different cultural levels has preserved the life of the main stem of Jewry, which, while branches died, has continually brought forth new shoots.

In the past the cohesion of the Jews was furthered by certain economic circumstances. Up to the thirteenth cen-

tury trade with the East was almost entirely in their hands, and was built up on the close relations and confidence which existed between the Oriental and the Western Jews. After they had been ousted from that trade they found a new economic basis in finance; the rules of Canon Law against interest on loans did not apply to them, and they developed the international exchange business, facilitated by the inter-relations of the Jews in different countries. In Poland, the kings granted them important economic privileges* In many ways their position resembled that of Europeans in the Moslem States of North Africa or in China during the nine-teenth century, more especially in that they were not sub-